

## The Bethyloid Genus *Mesitius* in South America (Hym.).

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The members of the remarkable genus *Mesitius* Spinola<sup>1</sup> are some of the largest and perhaps the most strikingly ornamented species of the varied family Bethyliidae. A considerable number of species have been described from the Old World, several of which have been most beautifully figured by Westwood.<sup>2</sup> So far, however, the genus has not been recorded from the Western Hemisphere, although Ashmead<sup>3</sup> referred to it a number of North American insects which have since been shown by Kieffer<sup>4</sup> to fall into quite a different genus, *Epyris*.

The South American specimen upon which the present note is based was collected at Bartica, British Guiana, by H. S. Parish, and given me by Prof. A. L. Melander. It represents a new species which may be described as follows:

***Mesitius neotropicus* sp. nov.**

♂ Length 9.5 mm. Metallic green, blue and purple, scutellum ferruginous; head thorax and abdomen spotted with yellowish white; wings infuscated at base and apex.

Head two and one-fourth times as wide as thick, rather coarsely, irregularly confluent punctate above and on the face, more sparsely so behind, especially on the cheeks; occiput and temples margined; ocelli in a small triangle, thrice as far from the eye margin as from one another; eyes large, oval, much narrowed below, bare; malar space very short, not furrowed. Antennæ 13-jointed; scape as long as the pedicel and first flagellar joint together, the latter twice as long as the pedicel and four times as long as thick; joints from thence onward shortening to less than twice their own width just before the apex. Ocelli large, on a tubercle in a very small triangle; the face below them with a median groove that extends to the base of the antennae. Head above greenish æneous, below æneous; front on each side below with a large triangular whitish spot which nearly meets the apex of the

<sup>1</sup>Mem. Acad. Sci. Torino (2), vol. 13, p. 73. (1851).

<sup>2</sup>Thesaur. Entom. Oxon., plate 31, figs. 8-11. (1874).

<sup>3</sup>Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 45, p. 62. (1893).

<sup>4</sup>Ann. Soc. Sci. Bruxelles, vol. 29 (2), p. 109. (1905).

spot from the opposite side; mandibles white, with black tips; palpi black, the maxillary 5-jointed with the joints increasing in length apically; labial 3-jointed.

Pronotum coarsely confluent punctate, with a deeply impressed transverse line which marks off sharply its anterior third; behind this with a deep median groove; æneous in color, with the central portion bright green, with a small median quadrate yellowish spot anteriorly, and on the posterior margin with a narrow band of the same color that widens laterally and extends over the lateral angles. Mesonotum much more sparsely punctate than the pronotum, with four parallel furrows, the lateral ones abbreviated anteriorly; distinctly purple, with the posterior third of the median lobe ferruginous; tegulae bright metallic purple. Scutellum smooth, with a few small scattered punctures, ferruginous; postscutellum ferruginous, with a black, truncate posterior margin and a few large punctures on the disc. Metanotum black, coarsely, irregularly rugose, narrowed behind by converging lateral carinae into a more or less shield-shaped form with subtruncate posterior margin; lateral angles strongly produced, white.

Abdomen minutely punctulate on the first two segments; closely punctate beyond; æneous anteriorly, but with green and bluish reflections beyond the second segment; basal half of first segment and anterior lateral corners, much enlarged below on the sides, of second, yellowish white; venter with second and first segment, except its posterior margin, whitish.

Propleurae whitish except for a large black fovea above, confluent punctate; mesopleura confluent punctate, metallic green, metapleura below the spine with a few coarse, vertical rugae.

Legs æneous, whitish at the incisures of the trochanters, and on the anterior tibiae inwardly at tip.

Anterior wings infuscated at base over most of the submedian and half of the basal cell, and also beyond the beginning of the stigma, this spot growing much weaker toward the wing tip; basal and submedian cells completely enclosed by very strong nervures and radial cell nearly closed, although the radial vein suddenly becomes weak beyond its middle; transverse median nervure not broken; base of cubitus indicated by a hyaline streak; hind wing weakly infuscated on apical half.

One specimen, which is very probably a male, from Bar-tica, British Guiana, February, collected by Mr. H. S. Parish.

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#### The Latest Honorary Fellow of the London Society.

Dr. A. P. Semenoff Tian-Shanski was elected an honorary fellow of the Entomological Society of London at its meeting of November 5, 1913, in the place of the late Prof. O. M. Reuter.